

Statement of reasons for co-option

Statement to support the co-option of Mr Rhys Chant onto Chichester City Council

My main intention for standing for co-option is to provide the City Council and the citizens of Chichester with a vocal advocate for young people and students in the City of Chichester. I believe that Chichester is failing to fully tap into the quality of education, expertise and opportunity that the young people of Chichester College and the University of Chichester provide. More action could be taken by local interests to ensure that young people find Chichester an attractive place to work, live and begin their place in the world. I want to work together with local interests to turn Chichester into an attractive and abundant city which provides opportunity and is a stimulated economy and social setting.

Whilst I am aware that the fruits of this labour will take a while to be harvested, the City Council could be the cornerstone of promoting a bright and prosperous future. I believe we should investigate supporting local businesses to set up postgraduate job opportunities to ensure that graduates of the University of Chichester have a reason to stay in Chichester and invest themselves in its community. This would benefit Chichester by increasing business activity over the long term and retaining students would be a great promotional asset to boast as a city.

Furthermore, I would speak up for the initiatives that contribute to a night-time economy to boost the City of Chichester as an attractive place to live for young people. I would seek to influence the development of the southern gateway as an opportunity for young people. It would be great to encourage a business hub where workshops, meetings and other start up activities can be held to promote local individuals starting a business or gain additional skills, as well as a nightclub and high-quality units set aside for small businesses aiming to promote a local economy and local community.

These things, I believe, are not only what young people want but what could make Chichester thrive as a hub of the south. We already have an abundance of opportunity, the foundations of our future are already there in businesses like Montezuma, Comics Coffee and Games, and Whirligig. These companies are high quality local or regional businesses, popular amongst the citizens because they represent an ambitious and timeless England, a Chichester of community, of locality. They are the example on which we can capitalise to make Chichester an attractive and modern place to live for all, in the beautiful settings of our historic parks and architecture. Chichester can really thrive, and I want to help make sure it does just that.